Eighth Grade Academic English Outline

2013-2014

Welcome to 8th grade English. So that you can know exactly what you will be studying this year, the syllabus below will outline all of you major activities.

Reading: During the 2013-2014 school year, we will be working from the *Language and Literature* textbook. Several other text books may be used at times for additional short stories. We will also study several novels in academic English, including *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Wreckers,* and one other selection. Additionally, two book reports will be assigned as independent reading each marking period; each will require an AR test and an essay.

Writing: We will be studying several different writing areas this year, including persuasive, narrative and informative/research. We will study and apply grammar into each writing assignment. Students will complete four book reports, a compare/contrast essay, a persuasive essay, and a longer research paper, plus additional writings.

Vocabulary: We will study vocabulary on a weekly basis this year. 20 new words will be given on Monday, and the quiz on spellings, definitions and parts of speech will be given the following Friday. Homework assignments will be given on Monday nights to practice these words. Students will have five weeks of vocabulary in a nine-week marking period.

Oral Communication: We will practice speech and oral communications this year through book report presentations and research presentations. Roughly three formal oral presentations will be given throughout the year.

Grammar: We will study grammar through writing assignments and in preparation for the PSSA writing exam.

Late Work Policy: All work that is submitted late will have points deducted. Late homework assignments will be given 50% and essays/AR tests will be deducted 5 points per day it is submitted late. Students are urged to make sure all work is submitted in a timely manner! For example, homework that is worth 10 points will be given 5 points if submitted late; it will be given a 0 if it is never submitted.

Good better best, never ever rest, until your good gets better and your better gets best!